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DRAGON AGE™

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Orson Scott Card with Aaron Johnston

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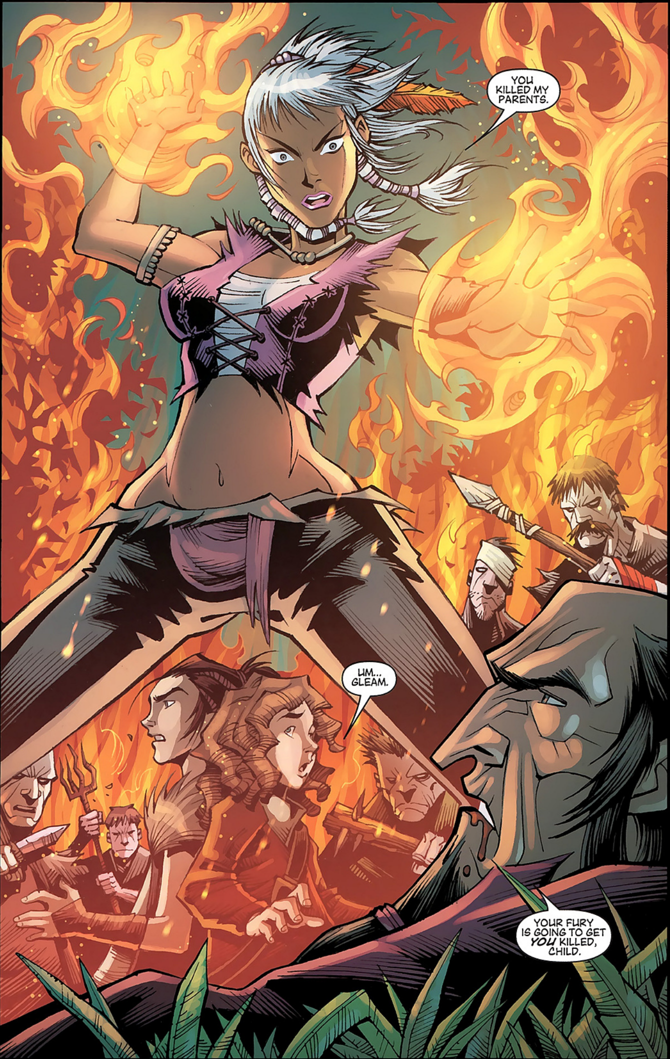
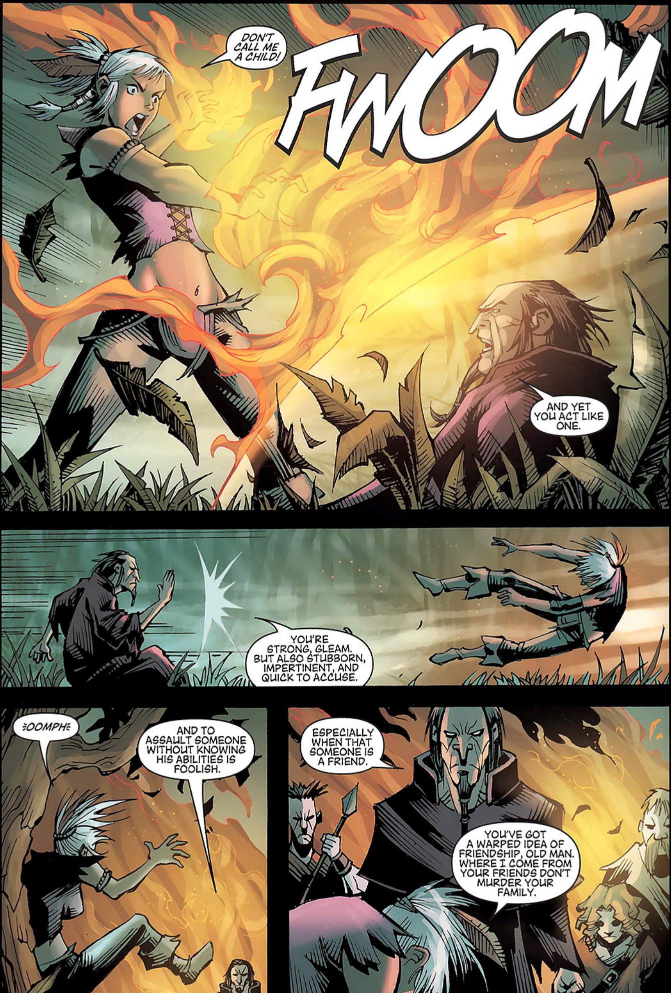

YOU KILLED MY PARENTS.
UM... GLEAM.
YOUR FURY IS GOING TO GET *YOU* KILLED, CHILD.


DON'T CALL ME A CHILD!
FWOOM
AND YET YOU ACT LIKE ONE.
YOU'RE STRONG, GLEAM. BUT ALSO STUBBORN, IMPERTINENT, AND QUICK TO ACCUSE.
OOMPH
AND TO ASSAULT SOMEONE WITHOUT KNOWING HIS ABILITIES IS FOOLISH.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT SOMEONE IS A FRIEND.
YOU'VE GOT A WARPED IDEA OF FRIENDSHIP, OLD MAN. WHERE I COME FROM YOUR FRIENDS DON'T MURDER YOUR FAMILY.

What has come before

After Gleam's adoptive parents were murdered, Gleam set out with her younger brother Agmo and cousin Datlin to find shelter with distant relatives. But the journey is dangerous. Templars are tracking them. A one-armed dwarf is following them. And Gleam believes she's just found the man who murdered her parents.

ORSON SCOTT CARD with AARON JOHNSTON, writers
ANTHONY J. TAN penciller
JASON P. MARTIN and ANTHONY J. TAN inkers
MOSSA ANDRES JOSE, colorist
RICHARD STARKINGS and
COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE, lettering
HUMBERTO RAMOS, cover art
EDGAR DELGADO, cover color

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Robert Simpson, Editor-in-Chief

FOR BIOWARE:
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Mark Darrah, Executive Producer
Matthew Goldman, Art Director
David S. Silverman, Senior Product Manager
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Richard Iwaniuk, Director of Business Development

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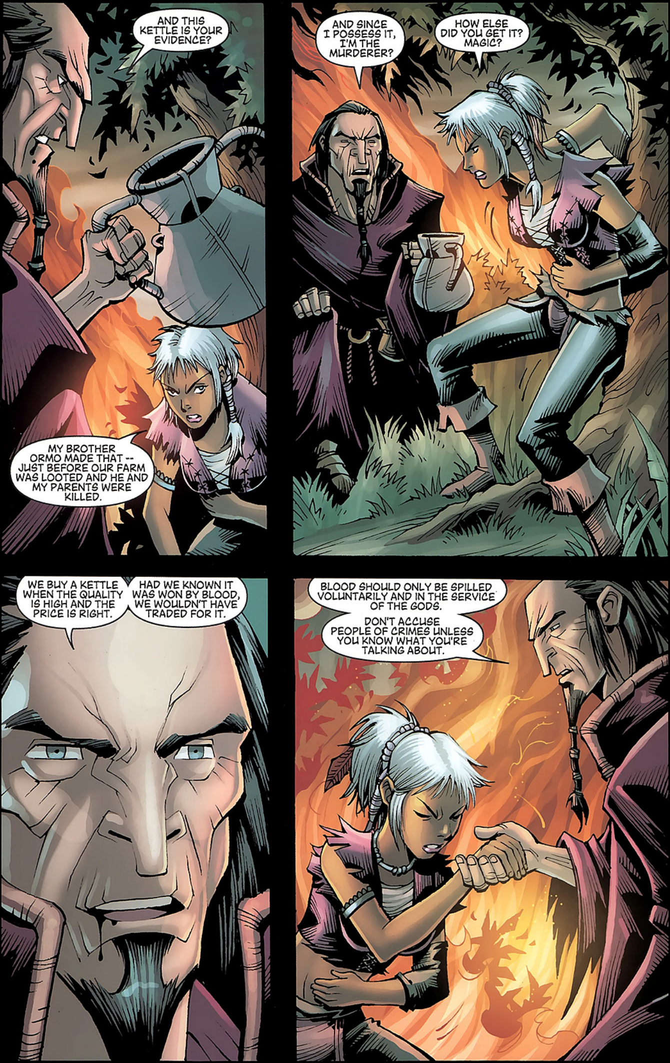
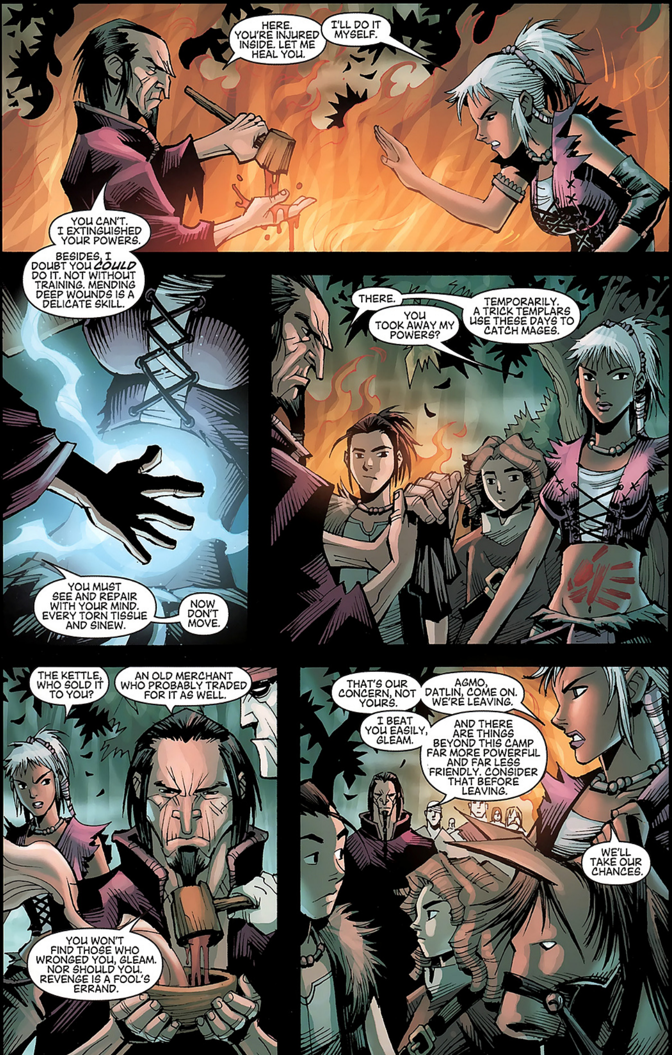
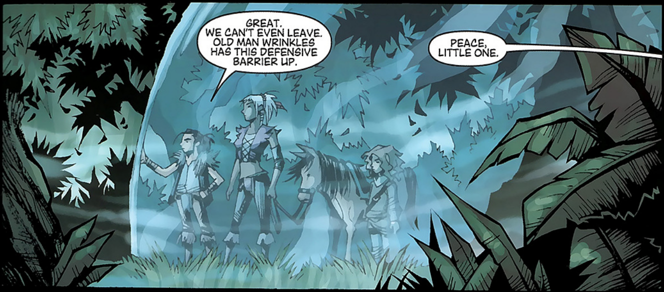
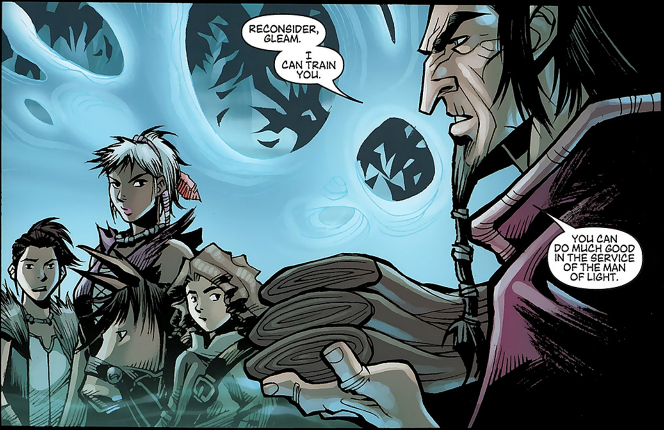
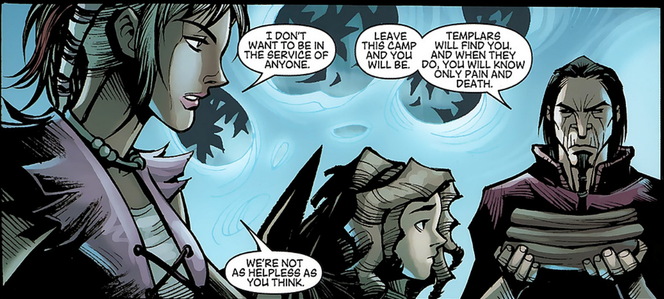
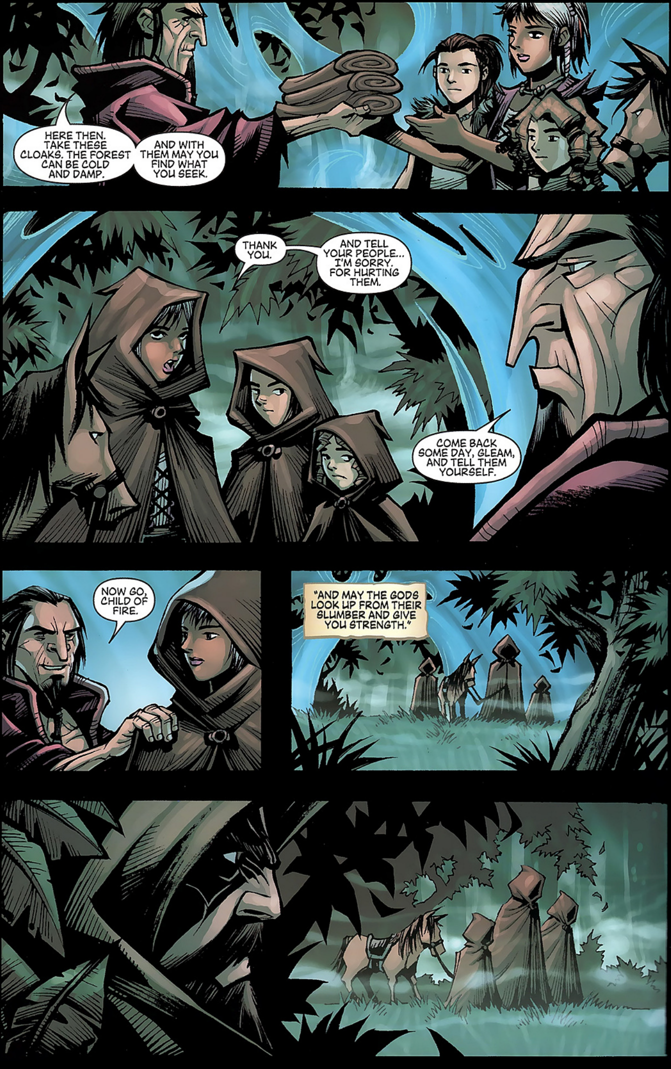

AND THIS KETTLE IS YOUR EVIDENCE?
MY BROTHER ORMO MADE THAT -- JUST BEFORE OUR FARM WAS LOOTED AND HE AND MY PARENTS WERE KILLED.
AND SINCE I POSSESS IT, I'M THE MURDERER?
HOW ELSE DID YOU GET IT? MAGIC?
WE BUY A KETTLE WHEN THE QUALITY IS HIGH AND THE PRICE IS RIGHT.
HAD WE KNOWN IT WAS WON BY BLOOD, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TRADED FOR IT.
BLOOD SHOULD ONLY BE SPILLED VOLUNTARILY AND IN THE SERVICE OF THE GODS.
DON'T ACCUSE PEOPLE OF CRIMES UNLESS YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

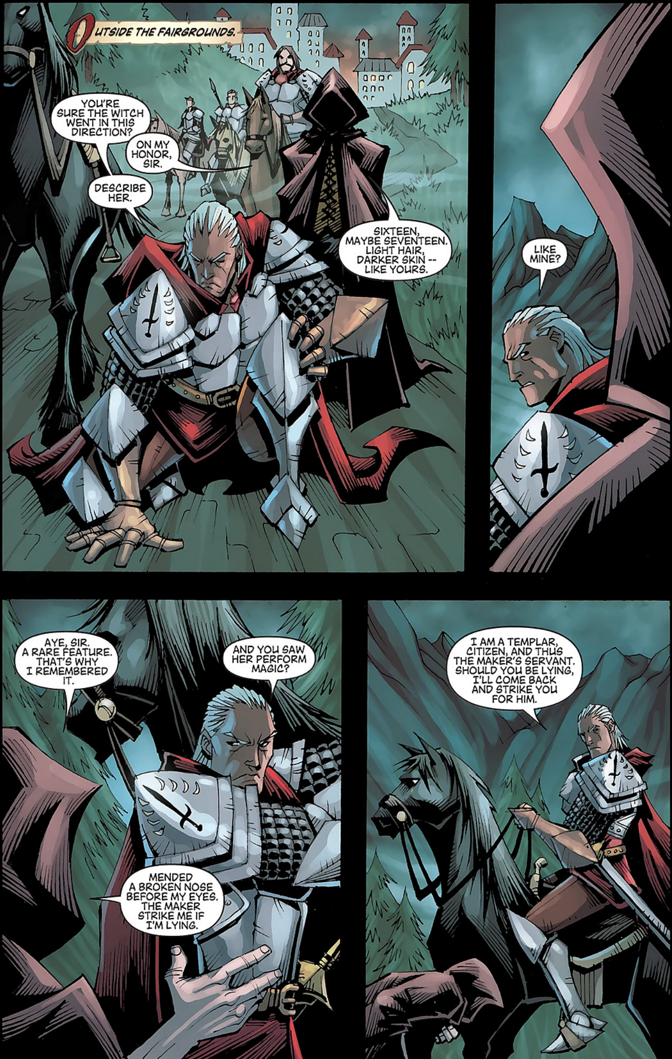

HERE. YOU'RE INJURED INSIDE. LET ME HEAL YOU.
I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
YOU CAN'T. I EXTINGUISHED YOUR POWERS.
BESIDES, I DOUBT YOU *COULD* DO IT. NOT WITHOUT TRAINING. MENDING DEEP WOUNDS IS A DELICATE SKILL.
YOU MUST SEE AND REPAIR WITH YOUR MIND. EVERY TORN TISSUE AND SINEW.
NOW DON'T MOVE.
THERE.
YOU TOOK AWAY MY POWERS?
TEMPORARILY. A TRICK TEMPLARS USE THESE DAYS TO CATCH MAGES.
THE KETTLE, WHO SOLD IT TO YOU?
AN OLD MERCHANT WHO PROBABLY TRADED FOR IT AS WELL.
YOU WON'T FIND THOSE WHO WRONGED YOU, GLEAM. NOR SHOULD YOU. REVENGE IS A FOOL'S ERRAND.
THAT'S OUR CONCERN, NOT YOURS.
AGMO, DATLIN, COME ON. WE'RE LEAVING.
I BEAT YOU EASILY, GLEAM.
AND THERE ARE THINGS BEYOND THIS CAMP FAR MORE POWERFUL AND FAR LESS FRIENDLY. CONSIDER THAT BEFORE LEAVING.
WE'LL TAKE OUR CHANCES.

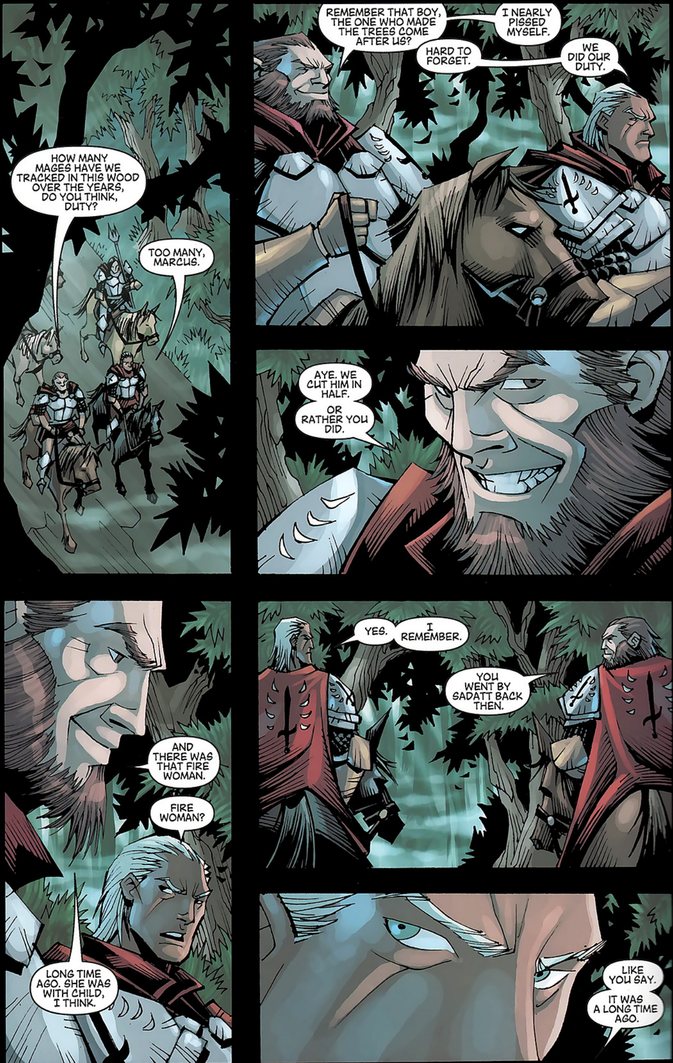

GREAT. WE CAN'T EVEN LEAVE. OLD MAN WRINKLES HAS THIS DEFENSIVE BARRIER UP.
PEACE, LITTLE ONE.

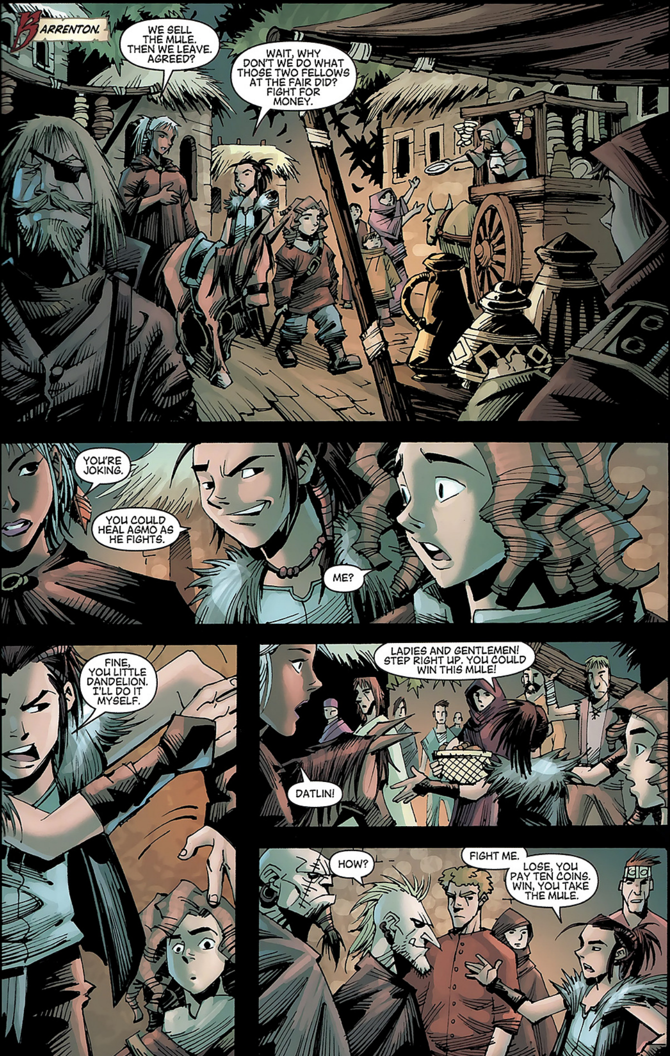

RECONSIDER, GLEAM.
I CAN TRAIN YOU.
YOU CAN DO MUCH GOOD IN THE SERVICE OF THE MAN OF LIGHT.

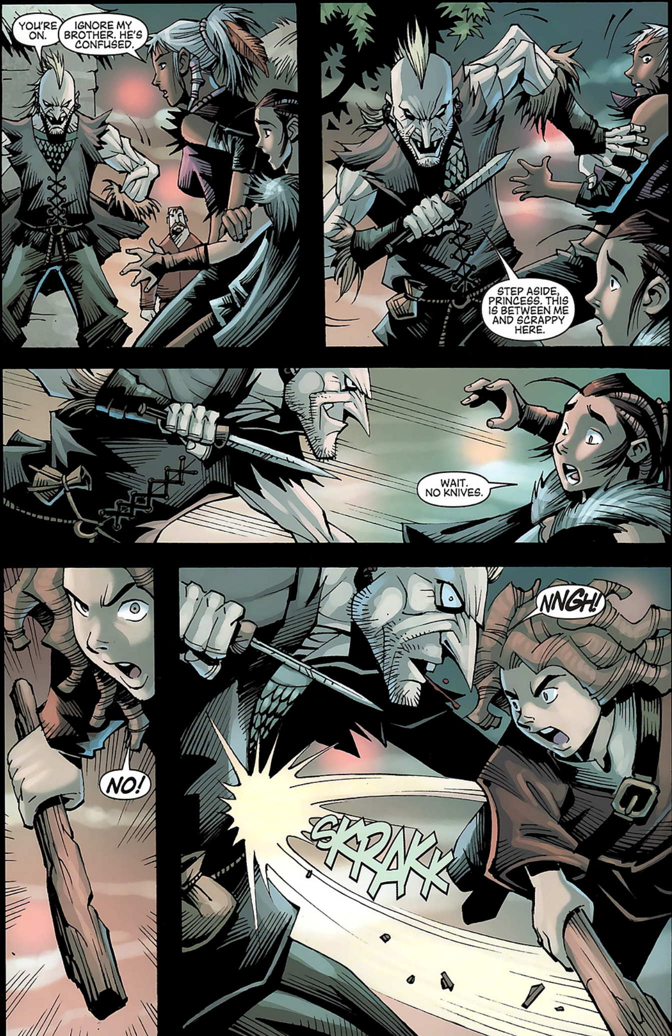

I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE SERVICE OF ANYONE.
LEAVE THIS CAMP AND YOU WILL BE.
TEMPLARS WILL FIND YOU. AND WHEN THEY DO, YOU WILL KNOW ONLY PAIN AND DEATH.
WE'RE NOT AS HELPLESS AS YOU THINK.

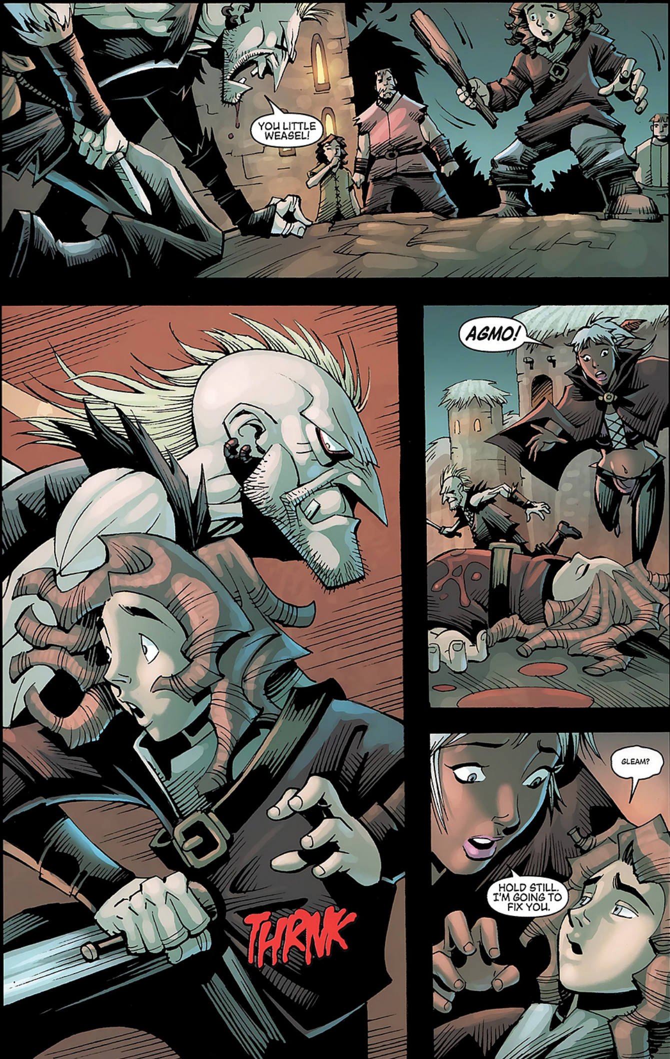

HERE THEN. TAKE THESE CLOAKS. THE FOREST CAN BE COLD AND DAMP.
AND WITH THEM MAY YOU FIND WHAT YOU SEEK.
THANK YOU.
AND TELL YOUR PEOPLE... I'M SORRY. FOR HURTING THEM.
COME BACK SOME DAY, GLEAM, AND TELL THEM YOURSELF.
NOW GO, CHILD OF FIRE.
"AND MAY THE GODS LOOK UP FROM THEIR SLUMBER AND GIVE YOU STRENGTH."

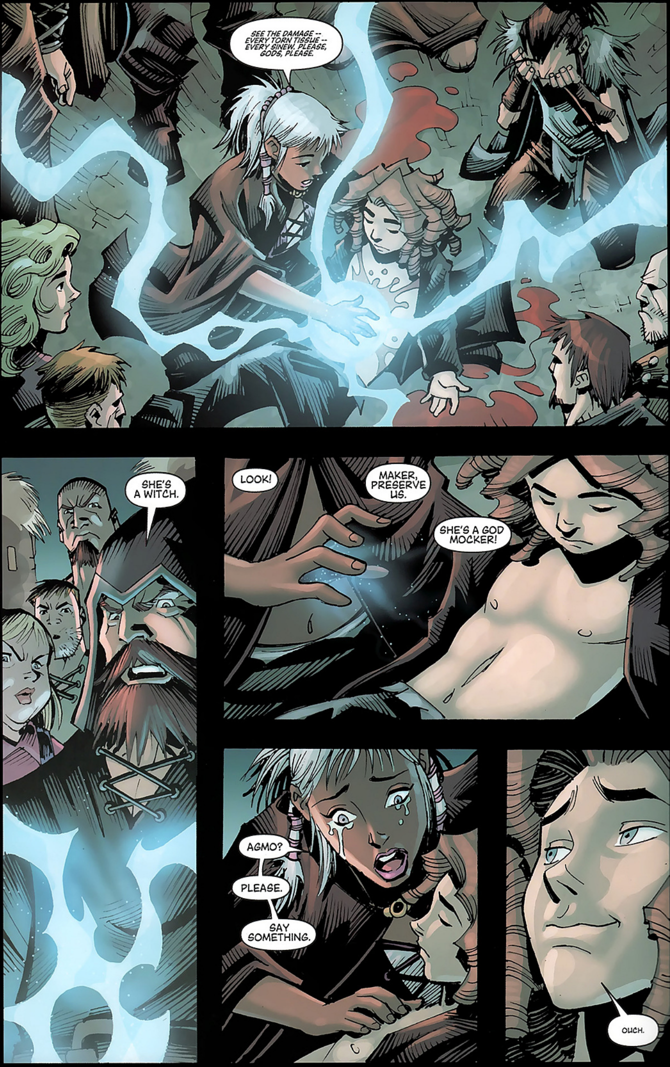

OUTSIDE THE FAIRGROUNDS.
YOU'RE SURE THE WITCH WENT IN THIS DIRECTION?
ON MY HONOR, SIR.
DESCRIBE HER.
SIXTEEN, MAYBE SEVENTEEN. LIGHT HAIR, DARKER SKIN -- LIKE YOURS.
LIKE MINE?
AYE, SIR. A RARE FEATURE. THAT'S WHY I REMEMBERED IT.
AND YOU SAW HER PERFORM MAGIC?
MENDED A BROKEN NOSE BEFORE MY EYES. THE MAKER STRIKE ME IF I'M LYING.
I AM A TEMPLAR, CITIZEN, AND THUS THE MAKER'S SERVANT. SHOULD YOU BE LYING, I'LL COME BACK AND STRIKE YOU FOR HIM.

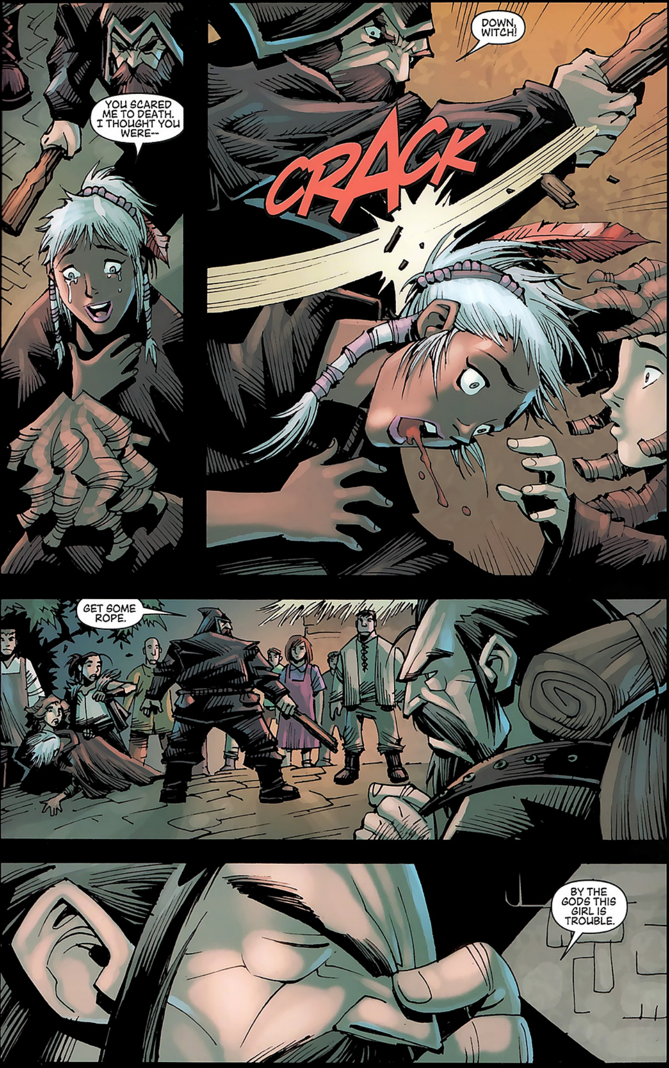

HOW MANY MAGES HAVE WE TRACKED IN THIS WOOD OVER THE YEARS, DO YOU THINK, DUTY?
TOO MANY, MARCUS.
REMEMBER THAT BOY, THE ONE WHO MADE THE TREES COME AFTER US?
I NEARLY PISSED MYSELF.
HARD TO FORGET.
WE DID OUR DUTY.
AYE. WE CUT HIM IN HALF.
OR RATHER YOU DID.
AND THERE WAS THAT FIRE WOMAN.
FIRE WOMAN?
LONG TIME AGO. SHE WAS WITH CHILD, I THINK.
YES.
I REMEMBER.
YOU WENT BY SADATT BACK THEN.
LIKE YOU SAY.
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

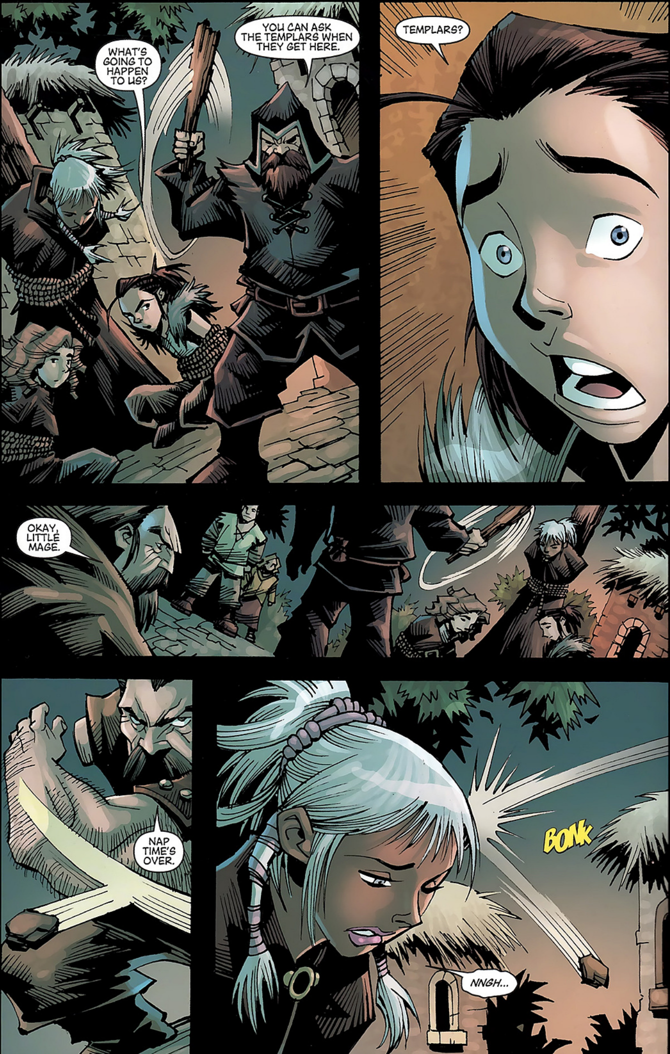

BARRENTON.
WE SELL THE MULE. THEN WE LEAVE. AGREED?
WAIT, WHY DON'T WE DO WHAT THOSE TWO FELLOWS AT THE FAIR DID? FIGHT FOR MONEY.
YOU'RE JOKING.
YOU COULD HEAL AGMO AS HE FIGHTS.
ME?
FINE, YOU LITTLE DANDELION. I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! STEP RIGHT UP. YOU COULD WIN THIS MULE!
DATLIN!
HOW?
FIGHT ME.
LOSE, YOU PAY TEN COINS. WIN, YOU TAKE THE MULE.

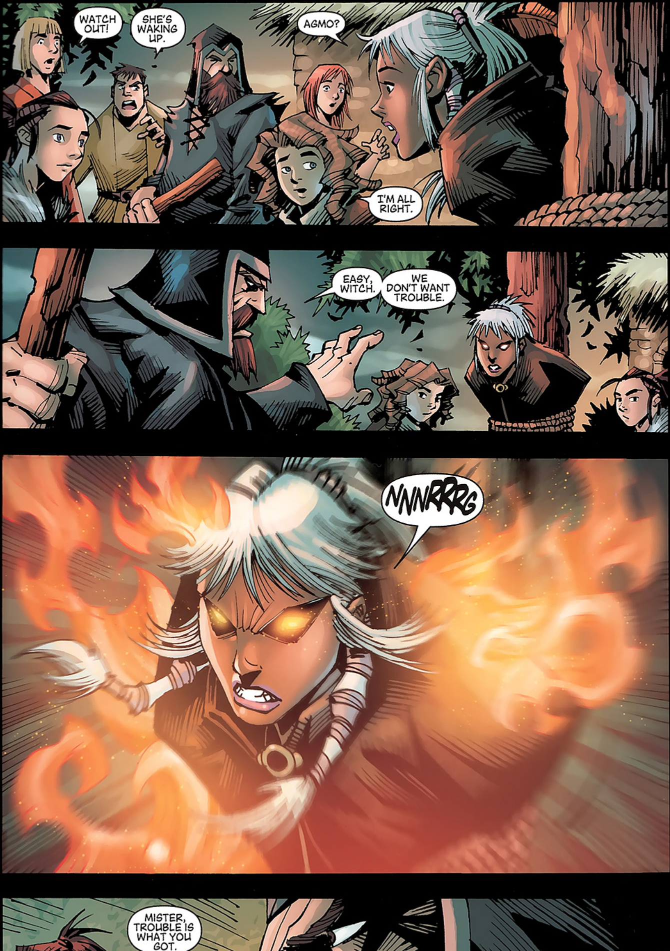

YOU'RE ON.
IGNORE MY BROTHER. HE'S CONFUSED.
STEP ASIDE, PRINCESS. THIS IS BETWEEN ME AND SCRAPPY HERE.
WAIT. NO KNIVES.
NO!
NNGH!
SKRAKK

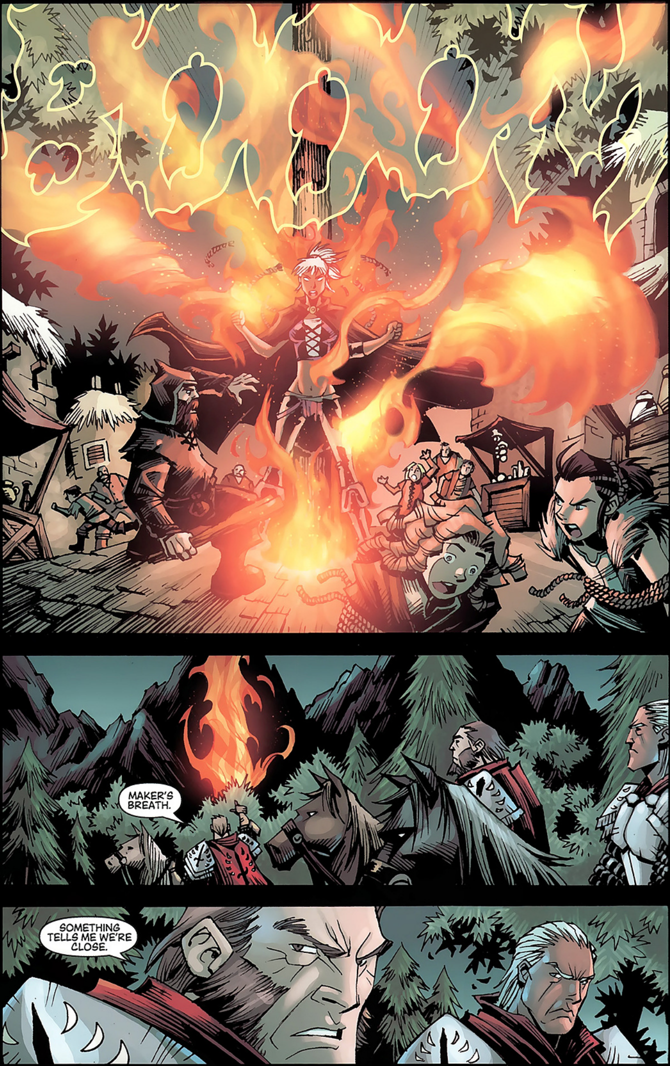

YOU LITTLE WEASEL!
THRNK
AGMO!
GLEAM?
HOLD STILL. I'M GOING TO FIX YOU.

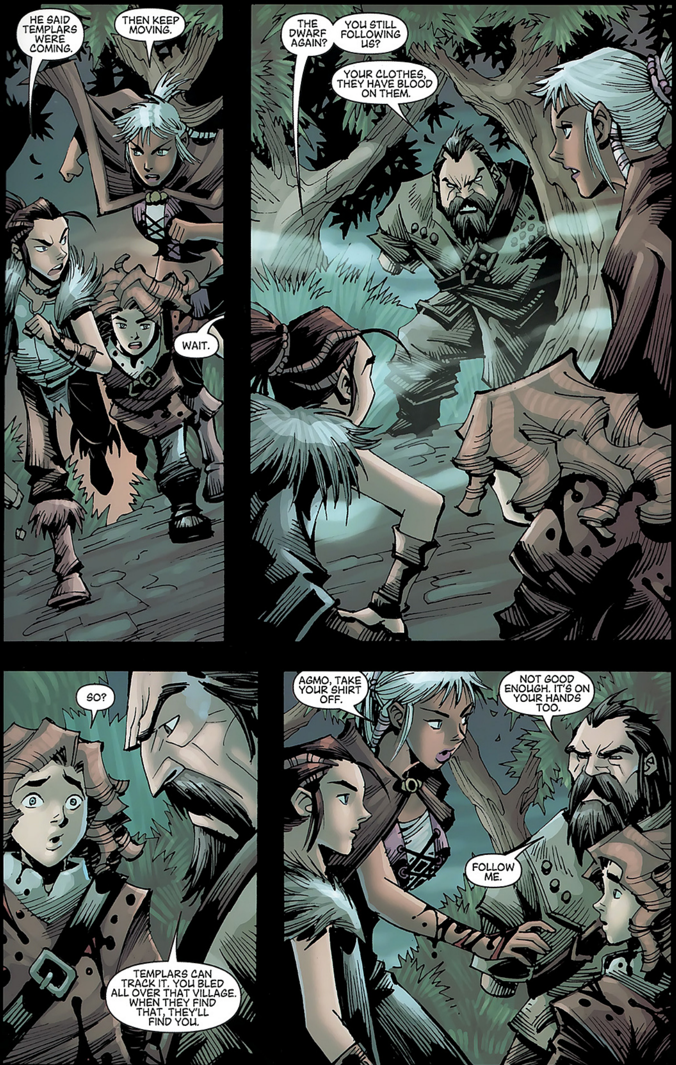

SEE THE DAMAGE -- EVERY TORN TISSUE -- EVERY SINEW. PLEASE, GODS, PLEASE.
SHE'S A WITCH.
LOOK!
MAKER, PRESERVE US.
SHE'S A GOD MOCKER!
AGMO?
PLEASE.
SAY SOMETHING.
OUCH.

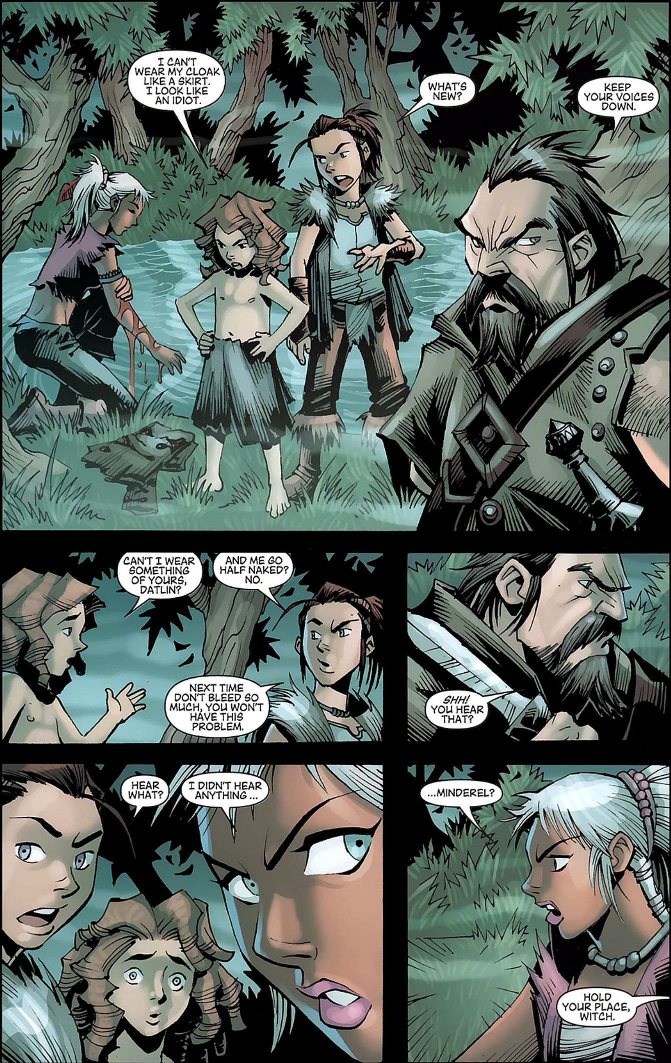

YOU SCARED ME TO DEATH. I THOUGHT YOU WERE--
DOWN, WITCH!
CRACK
GET SOME ROPE.
BY THE GODS THIS GIRL IS TROUBLE.

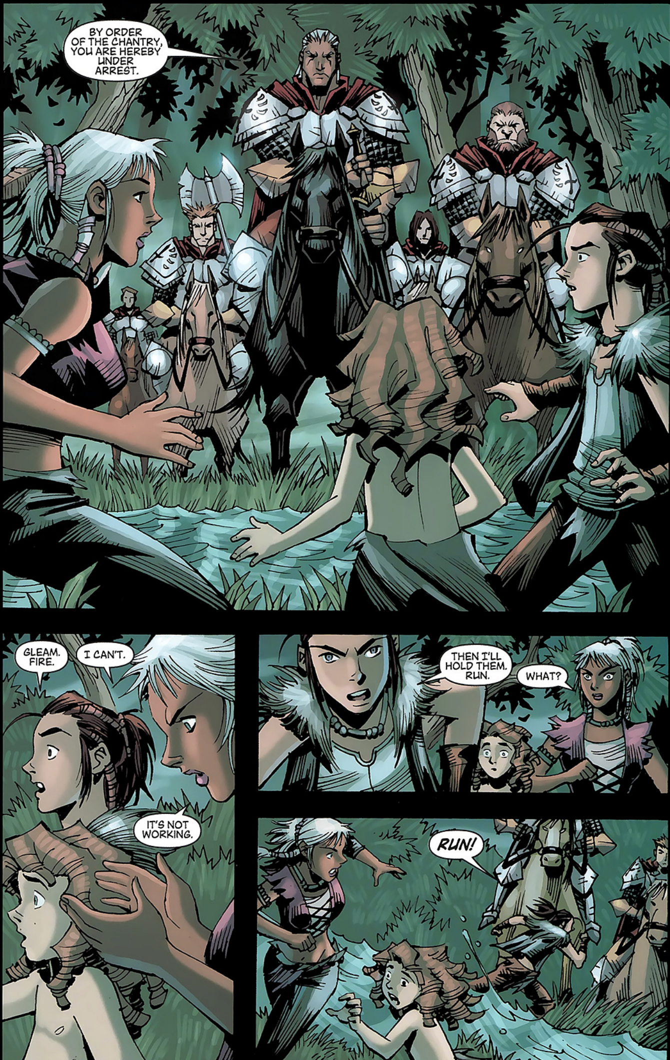

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
YOU CAN ASK THE TEMPLARS WHEN THEY GET HERE.
TEMPLARS?
OKAY, LITTLE MAGE.
NAP TIME'S OVER.
BONK
NNGH...

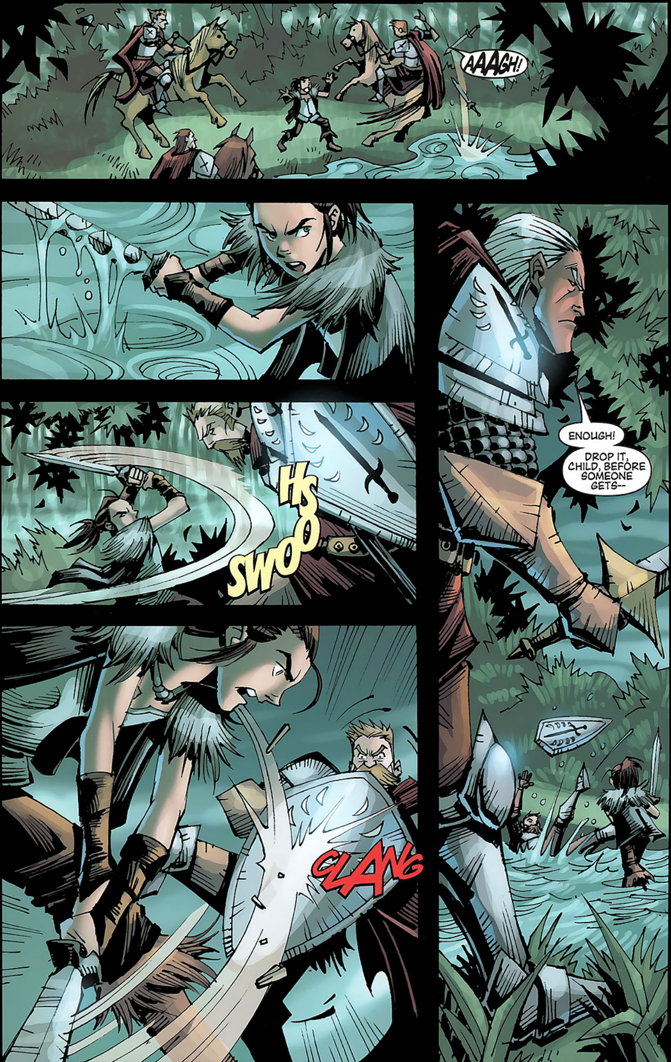

WATCH OUT!
SHE'S WAKING UP.
AGMO?
I'M ALL RIGHT.
EASY, WITCH.
WE DON'T WANT TROUBLE.
NNNRRRG
MISTER, TROUBLE IS WHAT YOU GOT.

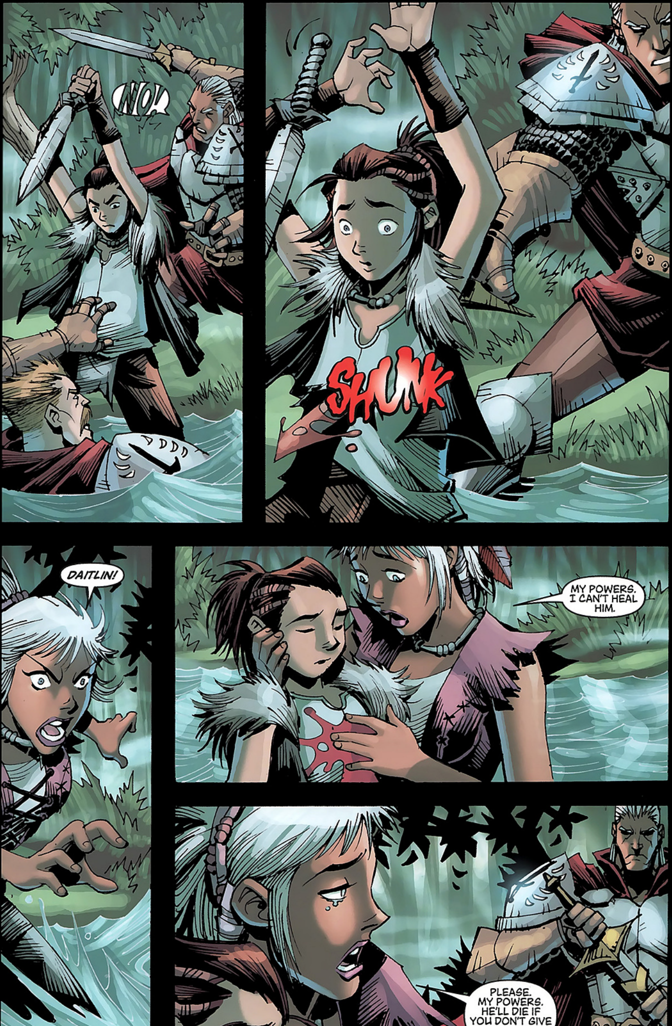

MAKER'S BREATH.
SOMETHING TELLS ME WE'RE CLOSE.

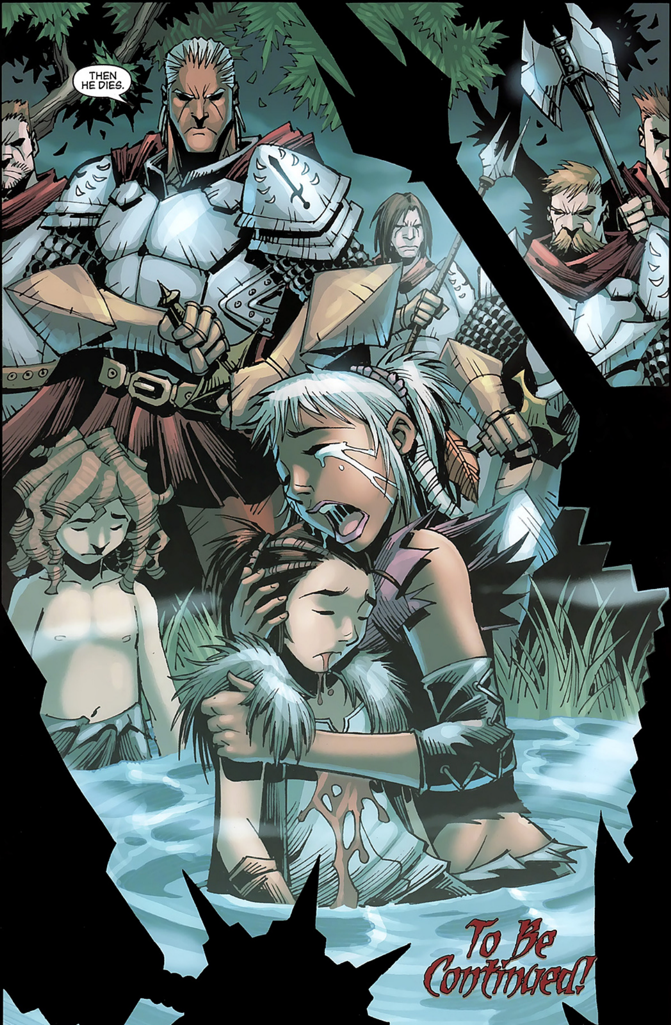

HE SAID TEMPLARS WERE COMING.
THEN KEEP MOVING.
WAIT.
THE DWARF AGAIN?
YOU STILL FOLLOWING US?
YOUR CLOTHES, THEY HAVE BLOOD ON THEM.
SO?
TEMPLARS CAN TRACK IT. YOU BLED ALL OVER THAT VILLAGE. WHEN THEY FIND THAT, THEY'LL FIND YOU.
AGMO, TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF.
NOT GOOD ENOUGH. IT'S ON YOUR HANDS TOO.
FOLLOW ME.


I CAN'T WEAR MY CLOAK LIKE A SKIRT. I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT.
WHAT'S NEW?
KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN.
CAN'T I WEAR SOMETHING OF YOURS, DATLIN?
AND ME GO HALF NAKED? NO.
NEXT TIME DON'T BLEED SO MUCH, YOU WON'T HAVE THIS PROBLEM.
SHH! YOU HEAR THAT?
HEAR WHAT?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ...
...MINDEREL?
HOLD YOUR PLACE, WITCH.


BY ORDER OF THE CHANTRY, YOU ARE HEREBY UNDER ARREST.
GLEAM. FIRE.
I CAN'T.
IT'S NOT WORKING.
THEN I'LL HOLD THEM. RUN.
WHAT?
RUN!


AAAGH!
HS
SWOO
CLANG
ENOUGH!
DROP IT, CHILD, BEFORE SOMEONE GETS--


NO!
SHUNK
DAITLIN!
MY POWERS. I CAN'T HEAL HIM.
PLEASE. MY POWERS. HE'LL DIE IF YOU DON'T GIVE THEM BACK TO ME.


THEN HE DIES.
To Be Continued!

MAGIC AND MAYHEM
in the next issue of:
DRAGON AGE™

IDWORDS

News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

IDW PUBLISHING IN AUGUST: THE DRAGON DAYS OF SUMMER

In which IDW Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief puts the focus on some exciting new titles

Some people consider August the "dog days of summer." Not us at IDW—here, we think of August as "hey, we all survived another Comic-Con." But August is also full of some great new releases I wanted to focus you on here.

One book we're really excited about is Science-Fiction Grandmaster **Harlan Ellison's** first new comic series in decades, ***Phoenix Without Ashes***. Ellison is going to remind everyone just why he earned the esteemed title of "grandmaster" with this 4-parter. I'm loathe to say too much about the story itself, since much of it works best when read cold. Pick up the comic this month and see what Harlan and artist **Alan Robinson** have concocted.

Also in August, we're bringing back ***Dungeons & Dragons*** in a big way. And to give you all an affordable look at what's to come, we're releasing a bargain-priced #0 issue, yours for only a buck. In it, you'll get an all-new, 10-page D&D story by writer **John Rogers** and artist **Andrea Di Vito**, the team for our core ongoing title, which will launch in November. Turn the page for a special preview! There's also a 6-page *Dark Sun* story by **Alex Irvine** and **Peter Bergting**, setting up the *Dark Sun* miniseries to come in January. All that plus concept art, creator interviews and more, yours for only a single dollar.

Locke & Key returns in August, too, with the start of the fourth series, "Keys to the Kingdom." You'll notice something special in the art in this first issue, by series creators **Joe Hill** and **Gabriel Rodriguez**. And if you've heard good things about *Locke & Key* but haven't quite known where to jump in, we're also offering a 40-page, value-priced reprint of the very first *Locke & Key* comic, ***Locke & Key: Welcome to Lovecraft #1 Legacy Edition***. This will contain the full 32-page debut issue plus a photo section starring Joe Hill that recaps the entire story so far. 18 issues of *Locke & Key* have been released so far, with 18 more to come. And all six issues of the *Keys to the Kingdom* miniseries are standalone issues, making it even easier for you to catch up with this acclaimed series.

Beyond these titles, keep an eye out for ***After the Fire***, an all-new, standalone graphic novel created and written by **Tom Waltz**, a never-before-published ***Phantom Jack*** graphic novel, the third *Zombies vs Robots* oversize hardcover, and, well, the full slate of comics and graphic novels you see below.

I'll see you back here in this space next month, to discuss things like **Robert Rodriguez**'s ***Machete***, **Joe Hill**'s new ***Kodiak***, and more. Til then, enjoy these Dragon days of summer!

Chris Ryall,
Chief Creative Officer/
Editor-in-Chief

IDW

AUGUST RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

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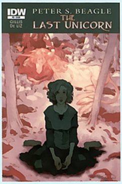
- Angel #36
- Bram Stoker's Death Ship #4
- Doctor Who Classics III #6
- Doctor Who #14
- Dragon Age #4
- Dungeons & Dragons #0
- G.I. Joe #21
- G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #157
- G.I. Joe: Cobra #7
- G.I. Joe: Hearts and Minds #4
- G.I. Joe: Origins #18
- Jurassic Park #3
- Kill Shakespeare #4
- Killing the Cobra: Chinatown Trollop #4
- The Last Unicorn #3
- Locke & Key: Keys to the Kingdom #1
- Locke & Key: Welcome to Lovecraft Legacy Edition #1
- MGM Midnite Movies: It! The Terror from Beyond Space #2
- The Murder of King Tut #3
- Mystery Society #3
- Pantheon #5
- Phoenix Without Ashes #1
- The Pilgrim #4
- Spike: The Devil You Know #3
- Star Trek Movie Adaptation #6
- Star Trek: Burden of Knowledge #3
- Starstruck #12
- Strange Science Fantasy #2
- Transformers #10
- Transformers: Ironhide #4
- Transformers: Nefarious #6
- True Blood #2
- Wire Hangers #4
- Witch & Wizard: The Battle for Shadowland #4
- Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper #3

TRANSFORMERS
LAST STAND OF THE WRECKERS

THE CHILLING ARCHIVES OF HORROR
DICK BRIEFER'S
FRANKENSTEIN
CRAIG YOE



GRAPHIC NOVELS
ART BOOKS • SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

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- Alex Van Helsing: Sword of Dracula TPB
- Angel: A Hole in the World TPB
- Classic G.I. Joe, Vol. 9 TPB
- Dick Briefer's Frankenstein HC
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- Clive Barker's The Thief of Always TPB
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- Transformers: Best of Megatron TPB
- Transformers: Last Stand of the Wreckers TPB
- Zombies vs Robots Aventure Oversize HC

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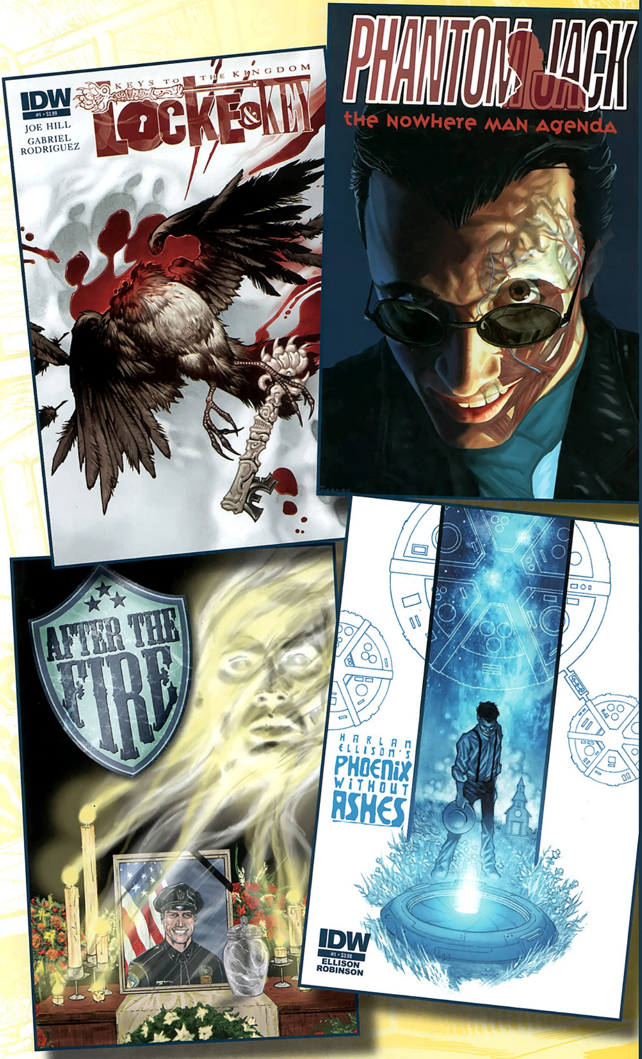
EXCITING NEW TITLES FROM IDW IN AUGUST!


IDW
#1 · $3.99
KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
LOCKE & KEY
JOE HILL
GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ
PHANTOM JACK
the NOWHERE MAN AGENDA
AFTER THE FIRE
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